

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A cannula and instrument holder assembly for laparoscopic surgical operations, said holder comprising:

a plate member having a surrounding edge; and

a wall surrounding said plate member, said wall being connected to said plate member all along said edge, said wall having a longitudinal axis, said plate member extending substantially transversely to said axis,

said plate member being provided with a plurality of separate and mutually spaced apertures for receiving respective elongate laparoscopic surgical members.

18. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said plate member and said wall each have a height dimension extending parallel to said axis, the height dimension of said wall being at least as great as the height dimension of said plate member.

19. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 18 wherein the height dimension of said wall is substantially greater than the height dimension of said plate member.

20. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 19 wherein said wall has at least one end portion extending as a flange to said plate member.

21. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said wall has two end portions extending as endless flanges to said plate

22. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said plate member is located at one end of said wall.

23. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said plate member is located at one end of said wall.

24. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 23 wherein said plate member and said wall form a cup shape.

25. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said wall has a first inner diameter at said plate member and a second inner diameter at an end opposite said plate member, said second inner diameter being larger than said first inner diameter.

26. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said plate member is inflatable.

27. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 26 wherein said wall is inflatable.

28. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said plate member is flexible.

29. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein the cannula and instrument holder consists of said plate member and said wall.

30. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said plate member is provided at said apertures with extensions elongating said apertures.

31. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 30 wherein said plate member has a first height dimension extending parallel to said axis and said extensions have a second height dimension extending parallel to said axis, said first height dimension being at least as great as said second height dimension.

32. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said apertures have a longitudinal dimension extending generally parallel to said axis, at least one of said apertures having a curvilinear or arced shape along the longitudinal dimension of said one of said apertures.

33. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said wall is flexible.

34. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said wall is at least partially curved in a direction parallel to said axis.

35. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein at least one of said plate member and said wall is provided with a gas channel for the introduction of an insufflation gas into a patient.

36. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 17 wherein said wall is provided with an anchoring element for securing the holder to a patient.

37. (currently amended) The cannula and instrument holder assembly defined in claim 36 wherein said anchoring element is taken from the group consisting of a hook and an eyelet.

38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (original) A laparoscopic instrument or cannula holder comprising:
an annular body member; and
a plurality of funnel-shaped port elements connected to said body member
and extending in a common direction therefrom.